Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

Crop Report

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Crop Report for May 18, 2008

Saskatchewan farmers now have 56 per cent of the 2008 crop planted, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly crop report.

The five-year (2003-07) average is 50 per cent of the crop planted at this time. The southeast is furthest advanced with 70 per cent seeded, followed by the southwest with 68 per cent seeded. The northwest is least advanced at 39 per cent seeded, due to a later start date in this region.

To date, 82 per cent of the peas are planted; 70 per cent of the lentils; 68 per cent of the durum; 59 per cent of the spring wheat; and 54 per cent of the canola.

A week of minimal rainfall, warm temperatures and winds has deteriorated topsoil moisture. The areas that received moisture last week saw it evaporate with the windy conditions. Crop reporters rate 50 per cent of crop land and 38 per cent of the hay and pasture land as having adequate topsoil moisture.

Rain in this upcoming week will be critical for emerging crops and hay and pasture land.

Seeding Progress by Crop District

CD	May 18/08	May 20/07
1a	65	66
1b	59	66
2a	82	76
2b	69	74
3an	66	66
3ase	81	85
3asw	65	77
3bn	73	84
3bs	67	85
4a	65	87
4b	67	93
5a	47	59
5b	48	42
6a	52	57
6b	40	65
7a	57	80
7b	49	83
8a	56	35
8b	49	41
9ae	41	16
9aw	40	49
9b	38	45
Prov.	56	64

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Seeding Progress in SK per cent seeded

	All Crops
May 18/08	56
5-year Avg. (2003-07)	50
May 20/07	64
May 21/06	64
May 15/05	47
May 16/04	41
May 18/03	32

1 Year Ago

Sixty-four per cent of the 2007 crop had been planted.

Eighty per cent of the crop land was rated as having adequate topsoil moisture.

Gophers, wire worms, and flea beetles were the most common pests damaging emerging crops.

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CANADA ~ SASKATCHEWAN
Crop Insurance

South eastern Saskatchewan
(Crop Districts 1, 2, & 3ase)

The southeast had rain at the beginning of the past week, which turned to windy, dry conditions. An average of 3 mm of precipitation fell, ranging from an average low of trace amounts reported in Crop District (CD) 3ase, to an average high of 7 mm in CD 1b. Winds caused soil erosion in the Fillmore and Weyburn areas.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land continued to decline with reporters rating 18% of topsoil moisture conditions as adequate, compared to 21% last week. Eight per cent of hay and pasture land was rated as adequate, compared to 13% last week. Rain is critical for crops, hay, and pasture.

South eastern farmers made good seeding progress last week. Reports show 70% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop District 3ase is most advanced with 81% planted. Crop District 1b has the least planted at 59%. Ninety-one per cent of the peas have been planted, 83% of the durum, 74% of the lentils, 73% of the spring wheat, and 70% of the canola. Some farmers have completed seeding. Early seeded crops are emerging. Some are being adversely affected by the lack of moisture.

In the Midale and Pangman areas, some farmers have changed seeding plans to include more durum because of the dry weather. Some seed has rotted in the fields in the Weyburn area and will have to be reseeded.

In the Frobisher area, there has been some wind damage to emerging crops this past week. Some crops are showing slow and spotty emergence in the Oxbow area. Cattle are still being fed in some areas, and hay crops are short. Winds have delayed spraying progress. Burning of straw and weeds is common in some areas, and a few fires have gotten away from the intended burn area. The water shortage is becoming critical for some farmers and ranchers in the Pangman area.

Fall-seeded crops are not looking good in the Tantallon area. Cattle producers are running out of hay in the Broadview area, as grass growth has been slow. Cattle also continue to be fed in the Grenfell, Fillmore, and Montmartre areas.

South western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 3asw, 3an, 3b, & 4)

The southwest was generally warm and windy much of the past week, with a few showers. An average of 3 mm of precipitation fell, ranging from an average low of less than ½ mm reported in CD 3an, to an average high of 5 mm reported in CDs 3bs and 4a. Dust was blowing in the Moose Jaw, Morse, and Gull Lake areas.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land deteriorated during the past week. Reporters rate topsoil moisture conditions as adequate on 34% of crop land, compared to 51% last week. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land were rated as adequate on 15% of the land, compared to 27% last week. Rain is needed soon.

South western farmers continued to make seeding progress. Reports show 68% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop District 3bn is most advanced with 73% planted. Crop Districts 3asw and 4a have 65% planted. Eighty-three per cent of the peas are planted, 81% of the lentils, 69% of the durum, 68% of the canola, and 66% of the spring wheat. Early-seeded crops are emerging. Some farmers have finished seeding.

Pasture growth has been slow, and now early growth is turning brown. Farmers are still feeding cows in the Bengough and Hazenmore areas. Water is being hauled for livestock in the Hazenmore, Ponteix, and Stewart Valley areas. Some areas are not sure if they will harvest a hay crop because of the lack of moisture. Fall rye crops are showing the effects of the hot, dry weather.

Gophers continue to be a problem. In the Ponteix area, they are eating the pulse crops almost as fast as they emerge. They are damaging hay crops in the Maple Creek area. In the Kincaid area, one farmer had the new experience of having gophers trapped under the air seeder. Cutworms were found south of Swift Current.

Farmers were rolling pulse crops and burning off sloughs. Winter wheat was re-seeded in the Cadillac area. The frost and cold temperatures affected early-seeded peas in the Shaunavon area and some are being reseeded.

In addition to seeding, farmers were harrowing, rock picking, and chemfallowing.

East central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 5 & 6a)

The east central region was generally warm, dry, and windy during the past week. An average of 2 mm of precipitation fell, ranging from an average low of les than 1 mm reported in CD 5b, to an average high of 7 mm reported in CD 5a. Winds caused soil erosion in the Yorkton and Semans areas. Some hail was reported in the Kelvington and Abernethy areas. One reporter was called to remove a snow drift from a field this past week!

Topsoil moisture conditions deteriorated during the past week. Reporters rated 52% of crop land as having adequate topsoil moisture conditions, compared to 66% last week. Reporters rated 37% of hay and pasture land as having adequate moisture, compared to 50% last week.

East central farmers made good seeding progress last week. Reports show 49% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop Districts 6a has 52% planted while CD 5a has 47% planted. Seventy-seven per cent of the peas are planted, 60% of the lentils, 57% of the canola, 56% of the spring wheat, and 51% of the barley. Early-seeded crops are emerging. Canola germination is patchy in the Lumsden area. Germination is also uneven in the Bethune area. The dry weather is causing some farmers to change their seeding plans away from oilseeds.

Livestock producers are still feeding cattle in the Stockholm, Quill Lake, Imperial, and Meachem areas.

For the first time in 20 years, our reporter in the Abernethy area did not do pre-seeding burn-off due to lack of weed growth. Winds have been delaying spraying operations.

Several reporters indicated there were challenges getting ammonia delivered to retailers and thus out to farmers.

West central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 6b & 7)

West central regions were generally warm and windy during the past week. An average of 1 mm of precipitation fell.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land deteriorated this past week. Reporters rated topsoil moisture conditions as adequate on 77% of the crop land, compared to 94% last week. Sixty-six per cent of hay and pasture land was rated as having adequate topsoil moisture conditions, compared to 91% last week.

West central farmers made good seeding progress last week. Reports show 48% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop District 7a is most advanced with 57% planted. Crop District 6b has 40% planted. Eighty-three per cent of the peas have been planted, 61% of the lentils, 52% of the durum, 48% of the canola, and 46% of the spring wheat. Some early-seeded crops are starting to emerge.

Pastures are poor and late, though have started to green up this past week.

In addition to seeding, farmers are spraying, rolling pulse crops, and harrowing. Fall-seeded crops are looking good in the Perdue area. Anhydrous is in short supply in some areas.

North eastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 8 & 9ae)

Last week, the northeast was generally warm and windy. An average of less than 1 mm of precipitation fell. Topsoil was blowing in the Porcupine Plain, Arborfield, Tisdale, Codette, and Melfort areas. The winds damaged grain bins in several farm yards in the Porcupine Plain area.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land deteriorated from last week. Reporters rated topsoil moisture conditions as adequate on 69% of crop land, compared to 95% last week. Reporters rated topsoil moisture conditions on 55% of hay and pasture land as adequate, compared to 93% last week.

North eastern farmers made good seeding progress last week. Reports show 51% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop District 8a is most advanced with 56% planted. Crop District 9ae has 41% planted.

Seventy-eight per cent of the peas have been planted, 67% of the spring wheat, 46% of the canola, 43% of the barley, and 41% of the oats. Some early-seeded crops have emerged.

Pastures are starting to green up. Some spraying was done, though weed growth continues to be slow. There are reports of people waiting for chemicals and of shortages of some fertilizers.

North western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 9aw & 9b)

The northwest was warm and windy during the past week. An average of less than 1 mm of precipitation fell.

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land deteriorated with 85% rated as having adequate topsoil moisture, compared to 98% last week. Reporters rated topsoil moisture on 86% of hay and pasture land as adequate, compared to 98% last week.

North western farmers made good seeding progress last week. Reports show 39% of the 2008 crop is planted. Crop District 9aw is furthest advanced with 40% seeded, while CD 9b has 38% planted. Two-thirds of the peas are planted, 49% of the spring wheat, 37% of the canola, 21% of the barley, and 16% of the oats.

Pastures are slow to develop, and cattle are still being fed in the Debden, Big River, St. Walburg, Barthel, and Rapid View areas. Farmers are running out of hay.

Some local shortages of ammonia and sulfur fertilizer were reported. Weeds are now growing with the warmer weather. Some farmers were looking for earlier-maturing varieties of canola.

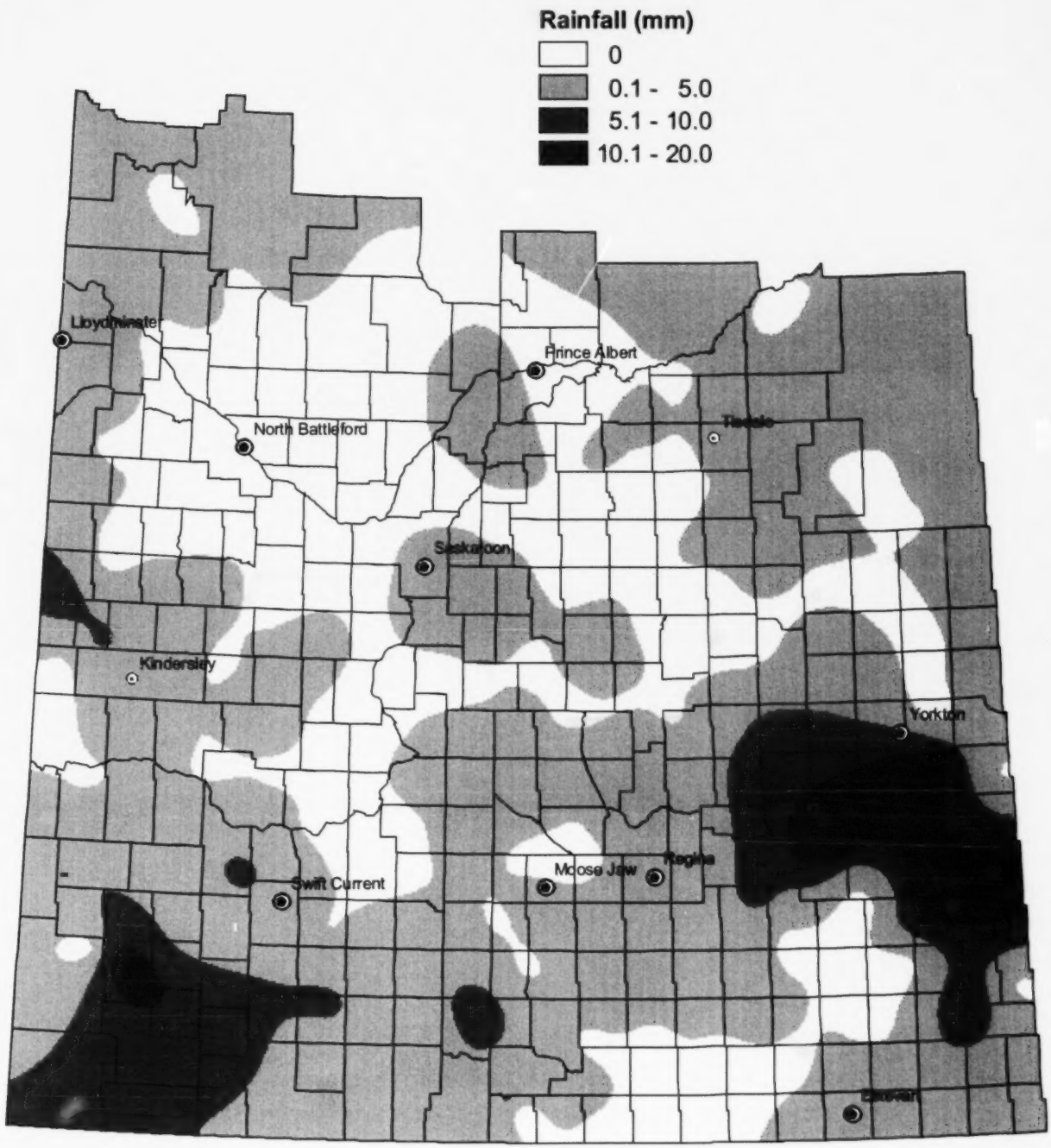
The precipitation report has not been finalized at this time and will be released when completed.

Degree Days Above 5°C

R.M.	Since April 1		May 11-17	Total
3	70		50	120
17A	50		49	99
38B	63	*	54.5	117.5
43A	75.95		53.2	129.15
43B	33.3	*	45.2	78.5
44	72		48	120
67	10	*	52.5	62.5
68	107.35		61.4	168.75
69	98.65		54.65	153.3
71	62.85		42	104.85
72	54.8		43.4	98.2
73B	78		58	136
75	55.85	*	58.55	114.4
76A	89.55		64.8	154.35
78	58.5		22.5	81
97	69.7		41.45	111.15
108	33.5			33.5
109	23	*	35.5	58.5
111A	91.1		64	155.1
123	26		40	66
124	31.45	*	34.95	66.4
127	32.15	*	43.3	75.45
132	35.5	*	49	84.5
134	31			31
138	104.5		64	168.5
141	66.15	*	54.3	120.45
142	103.75		66.55	170.3
151B	29.65		39.65	69.3
165	37.3	*	61.45	98.75
166	102		62.5	164.5
167	60			60
185	21.1	*	45.35	66.45
186	20.5	*	37	57.5
190	77.3		58.8	136.1
193	77		59.3	136.3
221	50.25		54.5	104.75
222	71		62	133
246	16.25		45.45	61.7
259	36.4	*	52	88.4
271	10		38.5	48.5
276	24			24
277	17.4	*	50.55	67.95
283	29.85	*	53.5	83.35
285	42.3	*	58.15	100.45
287	26	*	51.5	77.5
312	38.8		52.15	90.95
318A	37		51	88
333	2.5	*	28.5	31
336	19	*	51	70
339	22.75	*	50	72.75
340A	24	*	46.5	70.5
343	60.6		59.7	120.3
370	40		54.5	94.5
379	18.45	*	46.15	64.6
397	0		46.5	46.5
403	40.5	*	58	98.5
428	18.5		48.5	67
429	0	*	46.5	46.5
442	32.5		53.5	86
456	0		34.5	34.5
464	6.5	*	24	30.5
488	3.65		45.4	49.05
496	20		49.5	69.5
502	14.5	*	60	74.5

* incomplete

Weekly Rainfall
for the week ending May 17, 2008



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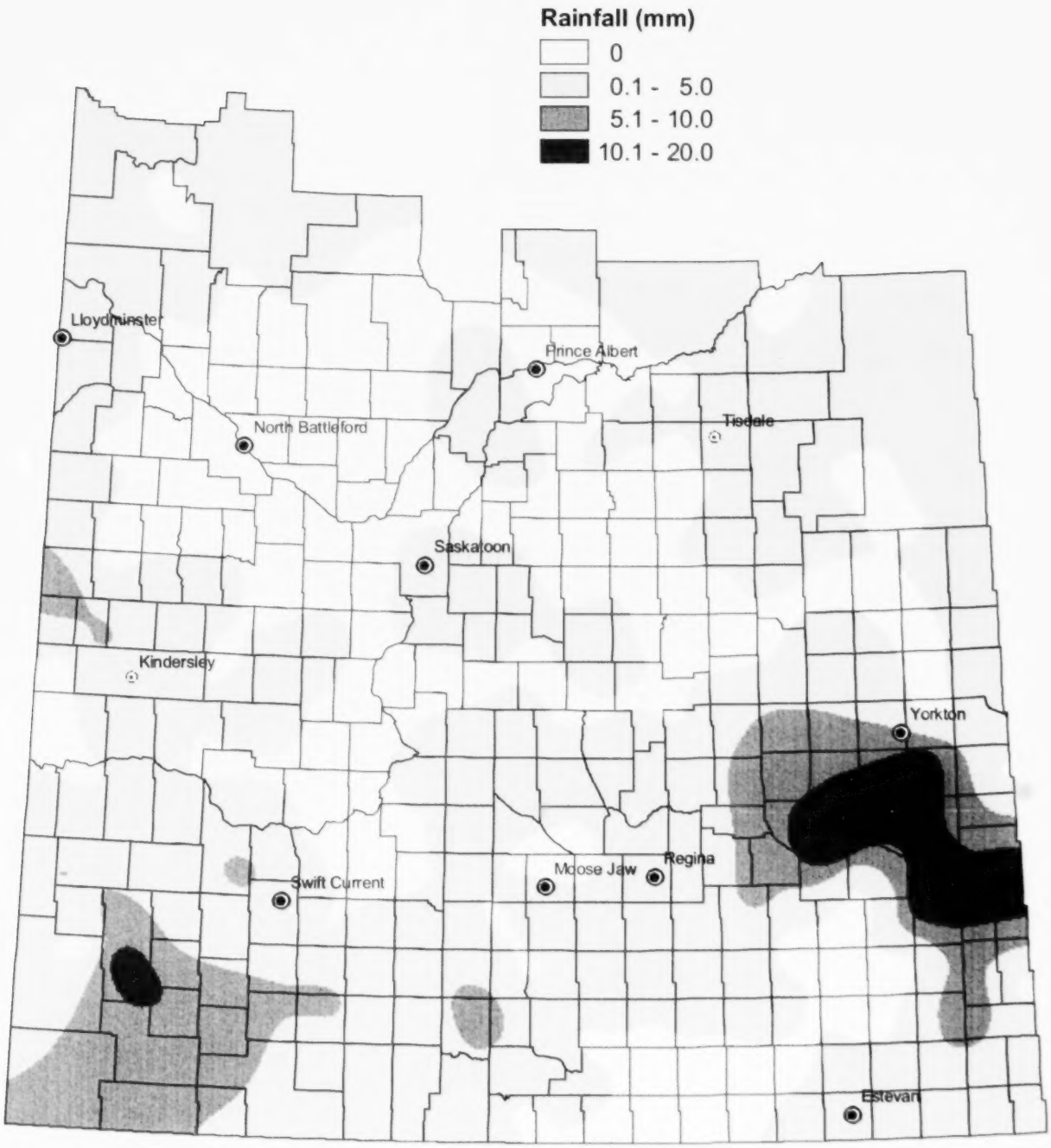
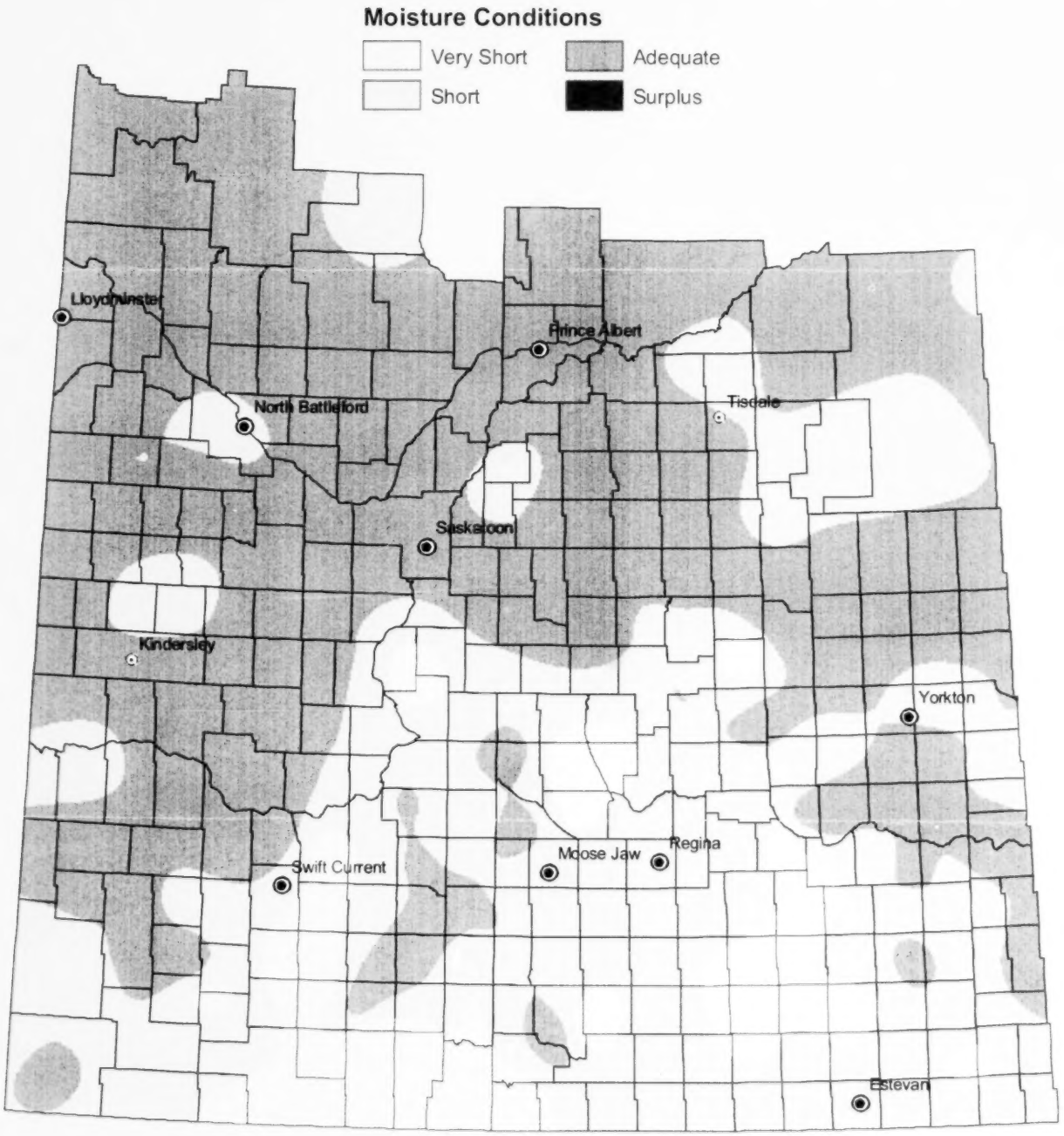


Crop Land Topsoil Moisture Conditions
May 18, 2008



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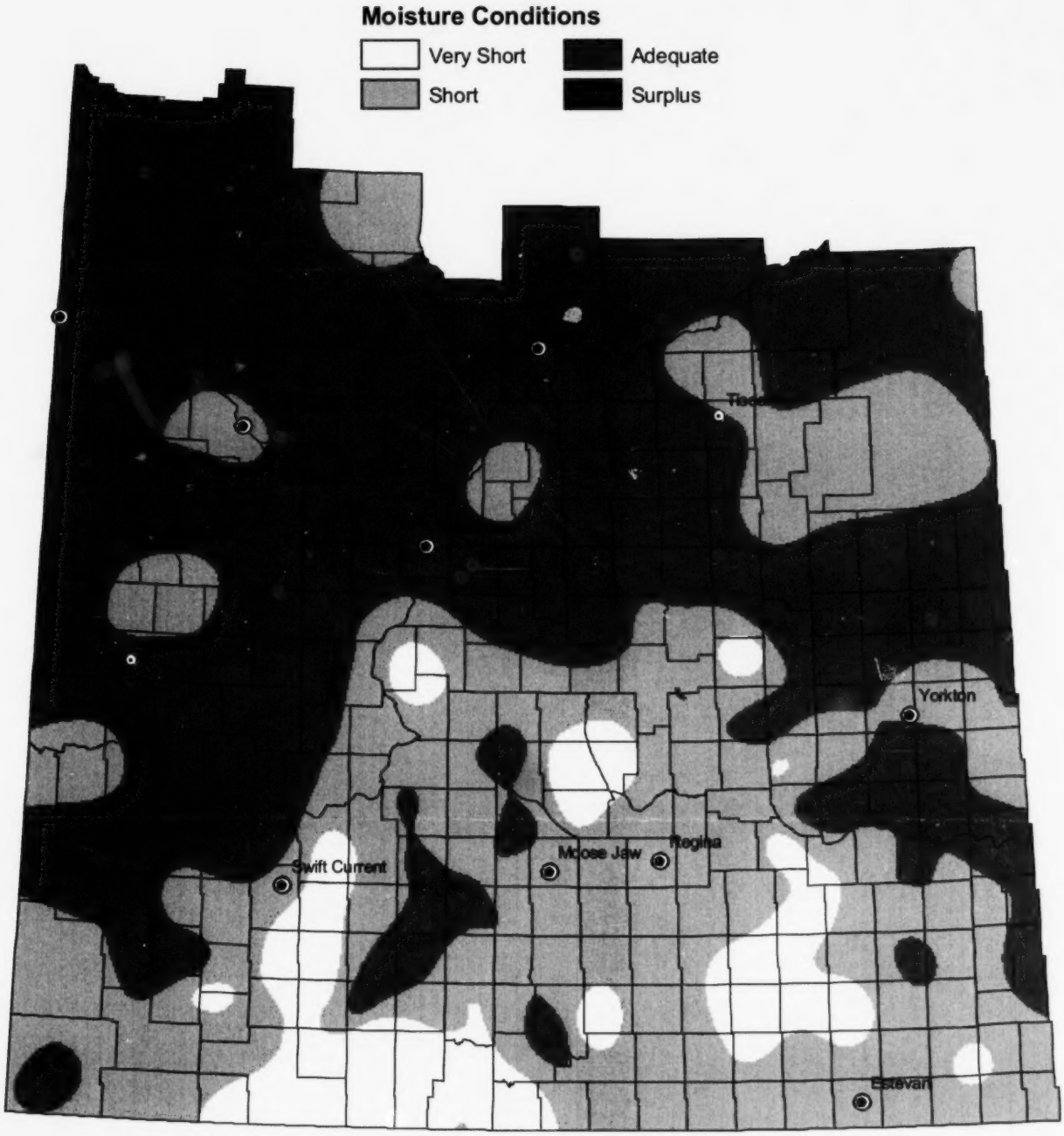

Crop Districts
and
Rural Municipalities